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## ALLARD PRAISES SENATE CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE BLACKBURN TO U.S. DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN COLORADAN WILL FILL VACANCY ON FEDERAL BENCH

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) today praised the confirmation of Judge Robert E. Blackburn to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. The Senate voted 98 - 0 to confirm him on Tuesday morning.

"Judge Blackburn will be an outstanding jurist," Allard said following the Senate's vote. "His experience and easy-going personality will serve him well on the federal bench."

Judge Blackburn currently serves as the District Court Judge for Colorado's 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Prior to his appointment to the Colorado bench, he served as a Deputy District Attorney.

President Bush nominated Judge Blackburn last September to fill one of two vacancies that existed on the District Court of Colorado. His name was forwarded to the White House by Allard and Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell following a recommendation that he be considered for one of the two vacancies by an independent judicial review committee formed by the two Colorado lawmakers.

"I am very pleased the Senate has acted to fill this important vacancy on the federal bench," added Allard. "For too long the people of Colorado have gone without their full compliment of judges. Today's Senate confirmation of Judge Blackburn, along with it's earlier confirmation of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Marcia Krieger, will help greatly in addressing the delays citizens have been experiencing due to those unfilled vacancies on Colorado's District Court."

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